



State Capitol  
Lansing, Michigan 48913  
517/373-7888  
1-888-937-4453  
517/373-2983 (fax)  
sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov

**GILDA Z. JACOBS**  
**MICHIGAN SENATE**  
**ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER**  
**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

Committees  
Economic Development, Small  
Business and Regulatory Reform VC  
Families and Human Services VC  
Government Operations  
Health Policy

# The Jacobs Report

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, September 3, 2004**

**CONTACT: Matt Levin**  
**(517) 373-7888**

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## **BUDGET AGREEMENT NOT WITHOUT CONTROVERSY**

Concluding a summer of sometimes contentious negotiations, Governor Jennifer Granholm and legislative leaders announced this week that they've completed target meetings for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 budget. The only area yet to be settled involves university tuition fees and how they will be computed as a tuition increase for restraint reimbursement purposes (see last week's Jacobs Report for details).

The new budget, according to Senate estimates, erases the one-time \$1 billion plus deficit with \$450 million in new revenue and nearly \$955 million in spending cuts and budget accounting adjustments.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm pitched the budget as an agreement that "improves the quality of life in Michigan and continues to grow the state's economy."

"We faced some high hurdles due to reduced federal funding and the effects of the national economic slowdown, but through bipartisan cooperation, we forged a budget agreement that will help us bring more jobs to Michigan and enhance our quality of life," said Granholm. "We have once again protected what matters most to Michigan families, while keeping our tax structure competitive."

The K-12 education component of the budget generated some discontent, as the administration announced that the minimum per-pupil foundation grant will be restored to \$6,700. However, cuts made to 22 top-tier 20J schools earlier this year will continue in the FY 2005 budget. The decision affects schools that receive more than \$9,000 per student in state money (which is equal to \$74 per child).

Legislative leaders argued that \$6.6 million in savings could be absorbed by these wealthy schools since, in every case, the cuts do not equal more than one percent of their budgets (in all but two cases, the cuts equal less than three-quarters of a percent). Individual senators and House members representing these districts in the Legislature begged to differ, however.

"We need to preserve education funding across the board," said state Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods). "This is an investment in our future."

"Enough is enough," said Michigan Education Association President Lu Battaglieri. "If the state

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Legislature and governor approve a compromise that fails to adequately fund all public schools, then they will compromise the educational future of students across the state.”

The 20J districts were cut at the expense of other programs. Republicans are pleased that the governor’s plan to completely eliminate \$64.8 million in private tuition grants survived only as a \$3 million cut. Granholm’s plan to cut agricultural extension programs by \$1.9 million also didn’t fly as a number of GOP tax breaks for businesses did.

“Our driving principle in these negotiations was that the '05 budget must address job creation and continued investment in Michigan’s high-tech economy,” Sikkema said. “This budget agreement represents a long-term investment in Michigan's future.”

The governor was successful in preserving Medicaid coverage for caretaker relatives and individuals between the ages of 18 and 21. Plans to reduce travel expenses for state employees were also taken off the chopping block. Her county revenue sharing plan made it through the target agreements with minor adjustments.

The governor was also able to preserve \$15 million for the Detroit Public Schools that the Legislature wanted to take away. This money was being given in the past to the district to assist the new Reform Board, which will be phased out and replaced Nov. 2, either by a powerful elected school board or by an elected school board with a powerful CEO appointed by the mayor.

### **JACOBS MOVES TO BAN SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS IN MICHIGAN**

Despite popular demand for continuation of the 1994 federal ban on semi-automatic weapons, Congress is letting the ten-year ban expire this month. In lieu of this development, state Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) plans to introduce legislation to ban assault-style automatic weapons in Michigan.

“Absent of federal protection, we need a state law to protect our citizens and law enforcement officials from the proliferation of weapons whose only purpose is to kill scores of people at once,” said Senator Jacobs.

Local law enforcement officials and victims of gun violence will join Sen. Jacobs to announce introduction and support of her legislation at a press conference **at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2004.**

**Who:** State Senator Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods)  
Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings  
Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard (*invited*)  
State Representative Bill McConico (D-Detroit)  
Clementine Barfield, Director, Save Our Sons and Daughters  
Audrey Hills, mother of slain Rochester Police Officer Adam Hills  
Gloria Stewart, mother of son who died from assault weapon fire  
Weusi Olusola, assault weapon injury victim  
Carolynne Jarvis, Director, MI Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

**What:** Press Conference

**When:** Tuesday, September 7, 2004  
2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Michigan State Police Headquarters  
Metro North Post #21  
14350 Ten Mile Road  
Oak Park, MI

**Other invitees:** Green Oaks Township Police Chief Robert Brookins; Rochester Police Chief Theodore Glynn; and other survivors of assault weapon violence.

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### **PISTONS DONATE MEMORABILIA TO AMERICAN TROOPS**

Touched by an e-mail from Lieutenant Kevin R. Poole, a Southfield native stationed in Iraq, state Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) worked with the Detroit Pistons to send a variety of Pistons' championship memorabilia to Kevin and his company.

Lt. Poole's Bravo Surgical Company is stationed in Fallujah, Iraq in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom." A company of approximately 110 men and women, they employ various skills to provide medical care to marines, sailors and soldiers. Bravo takes pride in their practice and has earned the nickname "*The Cheaters of Death*" from their fellow marines. When not caring for patients, *The Cheaters of Death* break-up stress by working out at the gym, playing card games, board games and horseshoes. During the NBA playoffs, they rose at 3:30 am on game days to watch live coverage on television. For the company's five Michiganders, the Pistons' world championship was a special moment of pride experienced during trying times.

In early August, Lt. Poole e-mailed his father, asking if anyone in Michigan might want to provide Pistons championship memorabilia to their biggest fans in Iraq. Louis C. Poole, Jr. suggested that his son might want to e-mail to Senator Jacobs.

"I'm honored to help fulfill the Bravo Company's wish," said Senator Jacobs. "It was so generous of the Pistons to provide such wonderful merchandise. I can't thank them enough. Nor can I adequately express my gratitude to the young American men and women putting their lives on the line in Iraq. This is just a small token of my appreciation.

"In the words of Lt. Poole, 'God Bless America, Michigan, the City of Southfield, and *The Cheaters of Death*.'"

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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